



The Branch

May 2025
Vol 75. Issue 8

Redwood Region RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy)

May Branch Meeting

Saturday, May 3
Wharfinger Building Bay Room
One Marina Way, Eureka
9:30 a.m. Social

10:00 a.m. Brunch: Menu is Kalua Pig Sliders,
macaroni salad, chocolate cake, coffee and tea - \$15.00
Coffee or tea only - \$8.00

10:30 a.m. Speakers: Amanda Peçanha Hickey, Director of Research and Policy at the California Center for Rural Policy and Leoni Farr, Communications Director of CCRP.

Please make your reservation by clicking [here](#) or calling Carolyn Miller at 707-798-1503. Reservation deadline either online or by phone call is May 28. Please make your reservation by the deadline. Late reservations cannot be guaranteed seating or food/beverage.

Amanda Peçanha Hickey is the Director of Research and Policy at the California Center for Rural Policy. Prior to joining CCRP she worked for a decade as a research coordinator and project manager on

initiatives related to food, sustainability, family farming, and land tenure; at home and across the Global South. Most recently Amanda worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations researching policies to support Small and Medium Enterprises in Sub Saharan Africa, and in Washington DC for an Indigenous People's coalition advocating land and forest rights. Amanda holds a BA in International Relations from SUNY New Paltz and a MRP from Cornell University. Hailing from a rural community in Upstate New York, she is delighted to be exploring the North Coast's hiking trails and beaches, and getting to know the vibrant communities that call it home.



Redwood Rise is committed to leading an inclusive, diverse, transparent, and accountable regional planning and implementation process. We center the community voices that don't always participate in or benefit from economic development planning processes through a regional-level, formal participatory governance structure designed to shift power to, and lift up, marginalized voices within and beyond our efforts.



Leoni Fohr coordinates communications for the [Redwood Region RISE \(RRRISE\)](#) initiative at the California Center for Rural Policy at Cal Poly Humboldt. She has designed and implemented a bilingual communications ecosystem that connects regional partners to economic development opportunities across diverse communities.

With a background in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and an MSc in Sociology (Social Problems and Public Policy), Leoni combines strategic analysis with compelling multimedia storytelling. Her work at RRRISE includes successful email campaigns, a website, and creative initiatives like the "[Humans of the Redwoods](#)" series that spotlight community stories.

Before joining CCRP, Leoni co-founded Pairagraph, led communications for the international non-profit War Child, and specialized in creating culturally resonant content at Welocalize. Throughout her eight-year career in international communications, she has consistently worked to build understanding across diverse audiences while advancing inclusive development.

2025-2026 AAUW Humboldt Branch Budget Proposal

Please review the proposed budget and bring any questions to the branch meeting on May 3. If you have questions but cannot attend the meeting, please send your questions to Katie Wright (kwright@suddenlink.net) by May 1. They will be addressed at the meeting. After discussion, members attending the May meeting will be asked to vote for the approval of the budget.

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026		Gross
Budget Items		Totals
Revenues		
<i>Operating Income</i>		
General		
Directory Advertising	-	
Member Event		
Branch Meeting: Drinks Only	300.00	
Branch Meeting: Meals	4,950.00	
Total Member Event	5,250.00	
Branch Dues		
Membership:	2,470.00	
Total Operating income		7,720.00
<i>Project Income</i>		
Fundraising Income (Restricted)		
Re-Entry Scholarships	10,000.00	
Total Project Income		10,000.00
Total Revenue		17,720.00

Expenses

Operating Expenses

General	
AAUW Fund	65.00
Insurance	490.00
State Filing Fees	45.00
Postage	216.00
P. O. Box Rental	240.00
Total General Expenses	1,056.00
Member Event	
Venue	2,250.00
Catering	3,000.00
Guest Meals	500.00
Speaker's Gifts*	-
Honorees Awards	50.00
President's gift	80.00
Total Member Event	5,880.00
Branch Support	
Branch Courtesies	-
Dues Assistance	30.00
Directory Expense	240.00
Newsletter Expense	60.00

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026		Gross
Budget Items		Totals
Total Branch Support	330.00	
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund *	300.00	
* Branch donations to AAUW GNF made in name of each guest speaker		
Community Project		
2 Tablets for Continuation Students	800.00	
Total Project Funding	800.00	
Total Operating Expenses		8,366.00
Project Expenditures		
Fundraising Expenses		
Tech Trek	150.00	
Re-Entry Scholarship	150.00	
Total Fundraising Expense	300.00	
Educational Projects Funded		
Re-Entry Scholarship	10,000.00	
Tech Trek Sonoma Camp	-	
Total Projects Funded	10,000.00	
Total Project Expenditures		10,300.00
Total Expenses		18,666.00
Excess Operating Income over Operating Expenses		(646.00)
Excess Total Revenue over Total Expenses		(946.00)

FY2025-2026 AAUW Humboldt Renewal Notices

Please be aware that AAUW National has increased annual dues from \$72 to \$74 as of 1 April 2025. Those members whose memberships renew effective May 1st or June 1st have already received at least one renewal notice with this update in effect. For these members, AAUW CA and branch dues remain as per last year.

However, most of our members are up for renewal effective July 1. AAUW CA is proposing to increase our state dues from \$20 to \$30 dollars effective July 1, the start of their 2025-2026 business year. This increase is being put to a vote by the members. The proposed increase was announced in the AAUW CA message dated March 27 with the subject 'AAUW California 2025 Election Information'. This message was sent to all members of AAUW California. Reasons for the increase were explained in detail in the message. Voting will also include approval of the AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities and the selection of its board members for the next business year. On April 26, each member will get an email message containing an invitation to vote. This message may also include detailed

information about the initiatives up for the vote. You must vote by May 16 for your vote to count. If you no longer have a copy of the original message and want another, send me a message (kwright@suddenlink.net) requesting a copy and I will forward it to you.

Because it is unclear what the AAUW CA dues will be for the next fiscal year, branch renewal notices for those whose memberships renew on 1 July will be delayed until after the vote is completed and the results announced.

Katie Wright
Treasurer



Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California 2025 Legislative Agenda

By Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom, Co-chairs Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met over a weekend in mid-March for our most important meeting of the year, to set the Legislative Agenda for 2025. Prior to the meeting, our committee collectively evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities. During our two-day marathon session, we carefully considered each bill. We then voted to select and prioritize the top 25 bills, leaving room to add a few more bills that we know will be coming to us in the next few weeks.

Our three "A" priority bills are SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", AB 579 "Yaeli's Law", and SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All". All three of the "A" priority bills this year fall under the Social Justice pillar of our Public Policy Priorities.

The first "A" bill, **SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians"**, is authored by Senator Henry Stern and is sponsored by AAUW California. SB 771 clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid or abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces. While hateful speech is problematic, it is not illegal. However, it can cross the line into illegal action. When hate speech is "brought to the doorstep" of marginalized communities, for example if someone maliciously posts anti-immigrant messages on the virtual Facebook wall of an immigrant family, they are engaging in unlawful intimidation, terrorism, and threat. While social media platforms are not responsible for the speech of individual users, aspects of their platform such as algorithms or AI can be complicit in the targeting of marginalized groups, which is unlawful. Social media companies have recently intentionally turned away from providing safeguards that they previously provided for targeted vulnerable communities. They should be held accountable for that decision, in light of the real-world impacts of proliferation of online hate and their complicity in unlawful intimidation.

The second "A" bill, to which we are taking an opposition position, is **AB 579 "Yaeli's Law" authored by Assemblymember Leticia Castillo**. This bill rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child's name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. This is problematic. Research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity. We oppose this bill because every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a more healthy environment.

The third "A" bill is **SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All"** authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar. This bill would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex

traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental aspect of health equity and human rights. SB 418 will protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, while also sending a powerful message of support to the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that their needs matter. Creating an environment where all individuals can express their identities without fear is foundational to a strong democracy.

To see the full 2025 Legislative Agenda, please go to the [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report is a living document that will be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.



Betty Boop's Course of Careers Now Runs Nearly 100 Years

Born of a pencil, she had no gender or name, and was a hybrid partly-poodle animated lovable creature with long, droopy ears.

Then, Betty with earrings appeared at the height of the jazz age in 1930. as a baby vamp. voiced by the “boop-oop-a-doop” scat style.

Animators and musicians now believe that “Jazz lives deep in the heart of Betty”

Betty Boop's evolution is still moving forward in style and part-human activities. She began as sassy and single. Guidelines for movies in the mid-1930s made her skirts grow longer, her blouses covered her cleavage, and she had more sedate jobs or was a homemaker. A style historian says, “Gone were the short skirt, the décolletage that made her so unique., , Betty became a character stripped of her charm.”

The Betty who arrived a decade after American women won the right to vote, was always working, and “did things that were until then unthinkable.” She liked being a pilot, a racecar driver, owned a diner, ran for president, and was an early animal activist. Today Betty Boop merchandise is huge in both design and name protection by U.S. and international trademarks

She is now headed for the Broadway stage, in *The Life and Times of Betty Boop* or *Boop The Musical* in development for more than the past two decades.

Bits of Betty Boop news and views from *the New York Times*. (Thank you to Jean Guthrie for sharing this with us)

Marilyn Ann Hagar

passed away on April 19 at the age of 84. She has been doctoring for her heart most all of her life. Marilyn was born in Eureka, to Walter and Elna Irene Hagar. Both of her parents were natives, having also been born in Eureka.

She had a happy childhood and spent a lot of time at her grandparents' chicken farm on Hubbard Lane and camping at Riverside Park with the Swede-Finn kids from the Order of Runeberg Lodge. When fifteen years old her parents bought a summer cabin on the Van Duzen River.



Marilyn graduated from Eureka High School in 1958 and attended Humboldt State College, receiving a bachelor's degree in education in 1962. After teaching at the old Franklin School for two years, she then attended the University of Wisconsin for a masters degree in psychology. She taught primary children in the Palo Alto Unified School District for thirty-four years, retiring in 2000. Her years in Silicon Valley followed the development of computers as a classroom tool. She was an excellent, caring and much sought-after teacher.

After the passing of her father in 1969, Marilyn lived in two places — working in Palo Alto, visiting in Eureka with her mother. The two of them traveled to Hawaii, Mexico and Michigan. On one very special summer long journey to all of Scandinavia, they met never seen relatives. All of the Swedish speaking grandparents were born in Finland with six or seven siblings each. My what relatives did she find!

After retiring and after her mother's death, she moved home to Eureka. Nothing delighted her more than traveling the world. She visited sixty-five countries on all continents. Most friends would usually ask, "Where are you going next?" Covid-19 put a halt to her travels. Between traveling she was active in many organizations such as the Redwood Empire Quilt Guild, the American Association of University Women and the local California Retired Teachers Association to name a few.

Special thanks go out to Timber Ridge Eureka and her next-door neighbor. The Marilyn's looked out for each other for twenty-five years. A graveside memorial service will be held at Sunset Memorial Park at a later date followed by a get together at Marilyn's house. In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice of Humboldt are appreciated.

The Branch is published eight times a year by the Humboldt Branch of AAUW. Submissions of articles, news items and photos from members are welcome. Submit them by the 20th of each month to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com.

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